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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 22 June 1950

SUBJECT Communist Party of Austria
Organizational Activities

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. January 1950

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The organization department of the Communist Party of Austria, acting on Cominform orders, changed membership cards in January 1950.
2. "Annual meetings" to issue such cards were held by all district boards and local groups. Pending disciplinary examination, party members challenged by the party committee were given identity cards instead of membership books.
3. Reports submitted to the central committee by the regional boards indicated that no more than 70 percent of the members attended the meetings. Most reports complained that 40 percent of the party members were inactive and that a great many did not even subscribe to the party press. Activists who worked faithfully for the party organization were commended at all annual meetings. New sections were organized and cells were created. These newly established organizational units (cells, local groups) are smaller and have fewer members.
4. Dr. Altmann, chief of the organization department of the Communist Party of Austria, said he hoped to win 20,000 to 30,000 more party activists throughout Austria as a result of this reorganization, on which the party spent 94,000 Austrian shillings. He added that it will now be the job of the organization department to weld party members and party functionaries into a flawless party machine so that all directives and decisions by the Central Committee and the regional boards may be forwarded immediately to even the smallest cells. They also plan to bring cells, sections and county, district, and provincial boards into closer contact with the Central Committee.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.	010
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Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	NR 702
Date:	14/66/78
By:	029

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